

WONDERFUL USES OF LEATHER FOR FEMININE ADORNMENT

Never Have Tanners Produced Skins So Supple and Fashion Makers Have Put Them to Many Uses

By ELEANOR HOYT BRAINER.

ONE hears much about the breakdown of civilization in these war clouded days. Perhaps it is under the influence of the general debate that our women are going back to clothing of skins with such enthusiasm.

Not even the remotest reference to the Winter Garden et al. is intended. The skins under discussion are the wearers' own only by right of purchase. Originally they belonged to a rude assortment of beasts and beasts and under the wizardry of fashion artists—as fashion artistry is understood in this Rue de la Paix cycle—they have been made to assume shapes that would strike awe to the soul of any skinned beauty of history's dawn.

Paquin might quite blithely and self-confidently accept a cave lady as customer; but for the cave lady to accept Paquin—

Still, the fundamental feminine even among primitives might respond to a Paquin redingote of leather. They are so extraordinarily good looking, those redingotes, and other designers, following the trail that Paquin blazed, have rung so many pleasant changes upon the theme.

Then, too, there are the jerkins and the waistcoats and the cape collars and—but suppose we begin at the beginning:

In the first place one must make obeisance to tanners and all work folk concerned with the turning out of the leathers for which fashion decrees unprecedented popularity and unwonted uses. Never were leathers so beautiful in coloring, so supple, so adapted to handling like textiles as those of to-day.

One can have them in almost any color or shade of color and in many kinds of finish, from the glaze of patent and the high finish of morocco to the dull surface or the velvety suede.

And, taking these beautiful leathers, the dressmakers have handled them as they might cloths of the tailoring sort, making coats, skirts, whole costumes of them.

The milliners promptly followed suit and the makers of accessories fell in line; so that now in every shop window one's eye is caught by leather offerings and one may go leather clad from top to toe.

The redingotes are the most extreme innovations. One model, shown by Paquin at the autumn opening, appealed to every buyer's fancy and was promptly duplicated in every New York shop that makes practice of importing high class models. Then it was copied, copied, copied, until one wearied of seeing the reproductions, and not only was it copied in leather but in cloth as well, the design proving admirable for cloth, though the originality of the first idea was lost at this stage.

That redingote is too well known to invite illustration; but there are many others now, most of them in very soft dull finish or kid finish leather of some neutral or dark color with trimmings of black patent leather or of leather in contrasting color, and sometimes with a bit of fur for finish.

A lovely dark violet purple is one of the good leather tones. Dark blues, dark and soft medium greens, wine reds, all the tan and brown shades, many gray, black and white, are all used for coat materials as well as for trimmings, and for trimming pur-

poses come many brighter hues, reds, blues, greens and yellows.

Trimming on the leather redingote often takes the form of silk in the color of the leather laid under cutout designs in the leather or of black or colored patent leather used in the same way as the silk.

A handsome redingote of soft tan leather sketched for this page illustrates this treatment, having its wide loose girde strip cut out in waving lines to show underlying tan silk and the shoulders and hips ornamented in similar fashion. In this model the collar, standing high about the throat, is of red leather edged in beaver, the beaver repeating exactly the tan of the coat.

Shorter coats of half length or a little longer are made very much as are the redingotes, only their shorter skirts are likely to have an even more pronounced flare.

Practically all of these coats and of the longer ones, while loose fitting, do have a perceptible curve under the arm and in the back seams. This gives an air of trimness consorting well with the material and the severe and careful tailoring of the garment. Very often the flaring coat skirt is joined to the body of the coat by some sort of hip seam.

In the long model illustrated here the flatly stitched simulated girde takes the place of this hip seam, but the shorter white kid coat also pictured shows a more usual way of joining skirt and body.

This white kid coat with its trimming of black patent leather had, by the way, an odd and effective note in its bordering bands of moleskin, whose soft taupe gray seemed to tone down the sharp contrast of the white and black surprisingly.

Coats of this sort are, it must be admitted, an extravagance. They are expensive and they answer only a few purposes, so only the woman who does not care what she spends on a passing fad will indulge in them; but the shorter coat, primarily designed for skating and other sports uses, has a greater chance of wide popularity.

Quantities of them are in evidence. A loose pea jacket shape, with a widening toward the bottom but no exaggerated flare, is a sensible and practical model that has found quick acceptance. It is built up of black or dark colored leather edged narrowly throughout with white, but otherwise untrimmed.

This makes an astonishingly warm coat, especially if it has an interlining of dannel added to the imperviousness of the leather, and has a distinctly sports air, though without any eccentricity.

There is another popular model which is also loose and widening just a trifle, but this coat has big pockets in front formed by what looks like a wide turned up hem of the leather and the fronts button up to the throat to meet a straight collar of fur.

A little less severe is the belted coat of leather, curved just the least bit in the part under the arms and widening only a little below the knee. The original model was of black leather with collar, cuffs and a band around the bottom of white fox; but the coat is copied in many colors and furs.

Usually the sleeves of these leather coats are plain and set into a normal armhole, but occasionally one sees a leather coat, strictly tailored but with a dropped shoulder.

Fur collars, mostly of the straight choker sort, figure in a majority of the short leather coats, but, as in the case of the pea jacket model, some of the coats have leather collars with which separate furs can be worn. A high, soft, choker collar of leather is substituted for the fur in a good looking belted coat of midnight blue leather, which is an exception in that it is snugly belted with a short rippling peplum below the belt.

It buttons up the left side of the front and on up through the wide collar, which flares out at top to accommodate the slim curve. This coat, by the way, is not merely a separate coat, but has with it a wide, short skirt of leather in tan color.

Separate leather skirts are offered



A dark blue leather coat, a black leather short jacket and a belted brown leather jacket with a tan leather skirt.

in the sports departments of the shops and are very skillfully cut and tailored. With them mackinaws, sweaters or even short fur coats are worn.

With the short leather sports coats the rough woollen skirts are the thing, particularly the block checks and plaids. Black and white block check homespun with a line of color through the hip line and finished with knitted wristlets and collar to match the leather; excellent garments to wear under a coat or for sports without a coat.

This loose straight jerkin effect is increasingly popular for sports wear and is a most comfortable and practical thing for slender figures, eliminating the waist line, yet supple enough to suggest all the figure's curves while not curving itself. It is extending its popularity to users other than sports, being made in velvet for informal house wear; but it looks particularly

well in the suede finish leathers. Though approximately straight, it curves out toward the bottom just enough to fall loosely over the hips; and, though not every one can wear it becomingly, it is an extremely becoming little garment for the right sportswoman.

The milliners have been playing with leather for many a day, but not until this season have they apparently given their serious attention to it.

Now leather toques and hats are everywhere and leather trimmings are applied to hats of various materials. For street wear as well as for motor-ing and other sports wear these hats are modish and some of the models have a great deal of smartness, while others are merely eccentric.

A narrow boat turban with close upturned brim hiding all but the top of the crown and flaring out from the crown a trifle in the back is all of leather and has no trimming save three buttons covered with contrasting leather, which are set on the left side of the brim. This in black with tan or bright colored buttons has been very successful, as has a round cap of leather whose contrasting crown of

soft leather is wrinkled crosswise and appears to be held in place by three buttons which button through bound eyelets in the brim.

There are leather tans, on the order of the velvet tones, that never seem

to lose their popularity entirely; and there are narrow and straight brimmed sailors of leather with flat ornaments of contrasting leather on the left of the crown.

Sometimes fur enters into the scheme, though it is generally used sparingly. A soft, slightly full crown of leather may be drawn into a band brim of fur, or a narrow, close fitting toque of leather may have a narrow trimming around it just where the sides curve for the top of the crown; or, perhaps, a round cap of leather formed by melon and pieces stitched together has a band brim of fluffy fur and a pompon of the fur posed at the apex of the crown.

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Coats, Skirts, Whole Costumes of Leather in All Popular Shades—Milliners Also Do Their Part

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ENGRAVED CRYSTAL POPULAR

EVEN if one did not know it to be true the ocular evidences of the shop windows tell the story of the decline of cut glass for table glassware and of the ascendancy of rock crystal, not only for the usual wine, cordial and water glasses, but for

dessert plates, berry sets, flower dishes and fruit bowls. A certain amount of cut glass is still used, but there is a decided trend of fashion toward the old fashioned glass and the woman who has inherited some from her Colonial or English ancestors is to be envied.

It is really lovely, the table crystal, with a beauty that nothing can permanently dim. Its limpid quality and absence of overornamentation, the ostentation of which served eventually to weary the devotees of cut glass, commends itself to the women of refined tastes everywhere. It isn't cheap, at least the imported article, but almost every woman would prefer to economize in her expenditures in order to enjoy a very little of its quiet elegance.

The diversity of the price noted on Fifth Avenue depends upon whether the glass is domestic or imported and whether etched or plain. In one shop there is to be seen a set of sixty pieces, without etching or engraving, that can be bought for about \$40, while another exclusive shop is asking \$120 for a set of dessert plates of English crystal, upon which is shown the lovely grape leaf design. In the latter case both the quality of the glass and the workmanship are exquisite. The set first mentioned consists of a dozen each of water glasses, champagne glasses, wine, cordial and cocktail glasses.

Another variation of the same ware is the baccarat glass, of which a set of dessert plates seen in a Fifth Avenue shop is \$200. Upon the flat rim of the plates is etched in the green body color the grape design which leaves the pattern thrown up in white.

There are some charming flower dishes in glass, broad shallow receptacles, with expansive rims that support drooping blossoms comfortably. They can be used singly or in a series of different sizes, according to the style of table decoration adopted. In sets of six they range in price from \$150 for an eight inch size up to \$10 for a sixteen inch size.

Bohemian glass is always more or less in demand by refined women, but to-day as a complement to pretty china and old silver ware it seems to fit in more admirably than ever with the general scheme of artistic decoration.

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Among the various styles and patterns shown there is none so lovely as the design showing a wreath of tiny button roses and green leaves. There are also designs of champagne and water glasses in the pattern at prices varying from \$12 to \$20 a dozen for each set.

Some ravishing berry sets in Bohemian glass are seen and a liqueur set is by no means the least interesting. It consists of a decanter and six glasses. The use of crystal and Bohemian glass follows out the trend of fashion for simple elegance in house furnishings which has spread slowly but surely throughout the land of late.

Better to have fewer things are having them good than to have quantities at the expense of quality is the unwritten law back of the movement. Women of good taste always have followed this law, but now William Morris's precept is extending its influence to the rank and file of housekeepers, and that is the reason why the home of the average woman nowadays has improved so tremendously in appearance as well as feeling.

Dr. Marie Mover is said to be responsible for the course in motherhood which is soon to be offered at the University of Chicago. This is the first time a practical course in motherhood has been offered by college, although such a course was suggested to President Sykes last summer prior to the opening of the Connecticut College for Women at New London.

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THE FLOUR OF THE FAMILY

"WHICH shall I choose?" This is the question which confronts the cook who is experimenting with the various fruit, vegetable and grain flours. One really does not know how many there are without stopping to investigate, so many have appeared on the market in answer to the demand of the food faddists.

Of course all are well acquainted with rye, wheat, graham, whole wheat, rice, bran, barley and corn flour, all of which have become far better products with the enforced pure food laws. But the banana, chestnut, lima bean, string bean, lentil, cassava root, yellow pea, green pea, potato, mixed vegetable flours are new enough to most of us to need an introduction. Nearly all of the finest grades of these so-called fancy flours are of Swiss manufacture and are a bit too dear for everyday use. However, for invalids and children they are highly recommended. The expert cook finds them most excellent in sauce making, for they not only do the necessary thickening but add a delicate flavor all their own when properly combined. In some instances they also do the work of a coloring agent.

Banana flour makes delicious cake layers to be laid up with fresh banana filling. Chestnut flour makes very acceptable chestnut sauce if one does not want to bother with the nuts or if they are not at hand to use.

Potato flour is excellent to use for potato pancakes or the Irish potato shortcake, which is baked in an iron frying pan on top of the stove. It is also good for soup thickening. Most of the other flours are adapted for gruels, sauces or invalid soups. A few recipes may, however, serve to show how a number of new dishes may be concocted from their use.

Lima Bean Fritters—One cup and a half of lima bean flour sifted with a quarter teaspoon of salt, one teaspoon of baking powder and a half teaspoon of sugar. Add two beaten eggs and enough sweet milk to make a good smooth batter. Fry in hot fat, drain and serve, dusted with salt and pepper and garnished with lemon quarters, with the meat course.

Green Pea Popovers—A cup and a quarter of green pea flour, a pinch of salt, one cup of milk and one fresh egg, the white and yolk beaten separately, then added. Pour into lightly buttered muffin pans and bake twenty minutes in a medium oven.

Potato Flour Griddle Cakes—Take two cups of the flour, a half teaspoon of salt, a teaspoon of baking powder, two well beaten eggs and enough sweet milk to make a thin, smooth batter. Fry in the usual way and serve melted butter, with a little lemon juice or honey, with the cakes.

Chestnut Apple Pie—Make a good pie crust of the chestnut flour, using it the same as any flour in the quantity needed, allowing a little more than the wheat recipe calls for. Fill

the crust with good rich apple sauce with a half cup of finely chopped pecan nuts stirred through it. Bake in the usual way and serve with whipped cream.

Vegetable Flour Cheese Straws—Mix two ounces of vegetable flour with two ounces of dry bread crumbs, a saltspoon of salt and cayenne pepper mixed and two ounces of sweet butter. Blend together, then roll out on a board an eighth of an inch thick and cut in strips a half inch wide and three inches long. Bake in the oven on sheets of writing paper for five minutes, or until they are a delicate brown. Serve with the salad course piled log cabin fashion on a dolly.

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Leather hats, collars and cuffs and a leather muff.

THE NEW TABLE DECORATIONS

IN place of the large floral centre pieces so long used on dinner tables, sets of small vases in Venetian glass and other beautiful wares are now being used. One of these vases, which range in height from two to five inches, may be placed at the centre of the table, if so desired. As the largest of them is not intended to contain more than three roses or flowers of about that size, there is no danger of interfering with the vision of the guests. The large floral piece in the centre of the dinner table has increased in size and elaboration to such an extent that it was difficult for

diners at the side of the table to see those opposite or for the host and hostess to get a glimpse of each other without dodging the huge mound of flowers and foliage.

These slender vases, which are to be had in sets of three or more, are usually distributed about the table, placed at angles calculated not to obstruct the view. A good effect is obtained by placing three on a line down the middle of the table—one in the centre, with the other two a convenient distance from it. With these may be used four others, placed near the corners where formerly the candlesticks stood. Yet another arrangement call-

ing for five vases is three down the middle, with one at two diagonal corners. The other two corners may be left unornamented or two branching candlesticks may be used.

One use of branched candlesticks in place of those bearing a single candle is another change in table decoration. One very pleasing arrangement calls for